



E-Read Texas: Intro and Overview

May 3, 2023

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Christine Peterson, Amigos



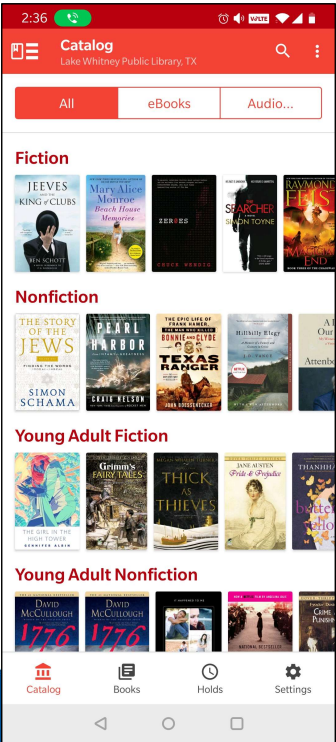
E-Read Texas – An Overview

- E-book program for small to medium-sized public libraries
 - Primary goal: to help libraries offer e-books to their patrons
 - Separate from TexShare databases
 - 204 libraries participating to date
- Access to e-book & audiobook collection of 18,000+ titles
- Access to SimplyE mobile app
 - TSLAC contracts Amigos to provide hosting and implementation
 - Libraries work with Amigos to add content



Who Can Join?

- Public libraries serving a community of no more than 100,000 people
 - Based on Public Libraries Annual Report data
- Libraries serving communities of more than 100,000 people can join if e-collection expenditures are under \$100,000/year
- Must submit an annual report to TSLAC each year



Supported Systems

- Auto-Graphics VERSO
- Biblionix Apollo
- Book Systems Atrium
- Evergreen
- Koha
- Ill: Sierra & Polaris
- TLC CARLX
- SirsiDynix: Symphony & Horizon

Have another system?

We can include you!

TechnologySolutions@amigos.org



What does it cost?

No cost for public libraries serving population of less than 100,000

- SimplyE hosting fees are 100% paid by TSLAC
- E-books are purchased by TSLAC



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E-Read Texas Collection

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Collection Scope



- Complement collections maintained by small and medium-sized public libraries in Texas
- Mostly adult fiction and popular non-fiction
- Collection development policy:
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>
- TSLAC responsible for collection decisions
 - Support and input from the E-Read Texas Working Group: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/ebooksworking.html>
- Title lists available at:
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks/collectioninfo>

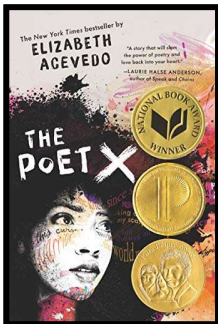


What Content does E-Read Texas Offer?

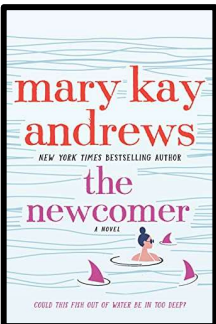
Over 18,000 titles and growing



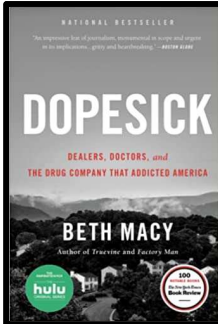
Award Winners



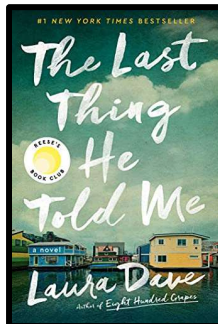
YA Fiction



Genre Fiction



Popular Non-Fiction



Popular Fiction

100+ Publishers



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Biblioboard Collection

- **Biblioboard:** <https://e-readtx.biblioboard.com/home>
 - Approximately 6,000 titles
 - Perpetual access
 - Unlimited simultaneous users
 - Website is geolocated and any user located in Texas will have full access
 - Available online AND via SimplyE
 - Catalog records available

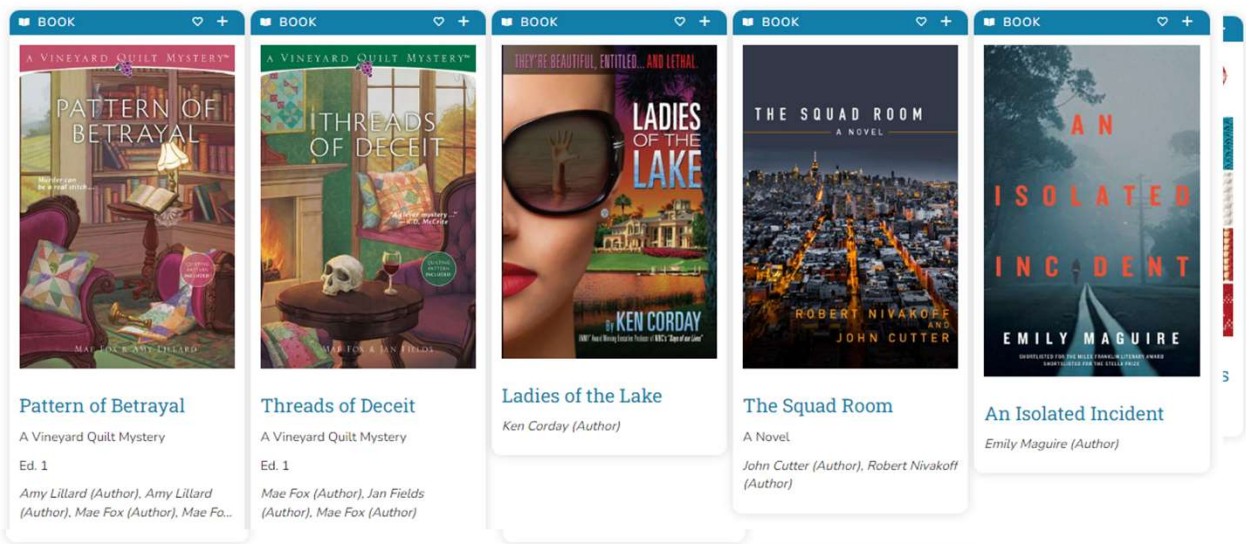


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Biblioboard Collection

<https://e-readtx.biblioboard.com/home>



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Baker & Taylor, Bibliotheca Collections

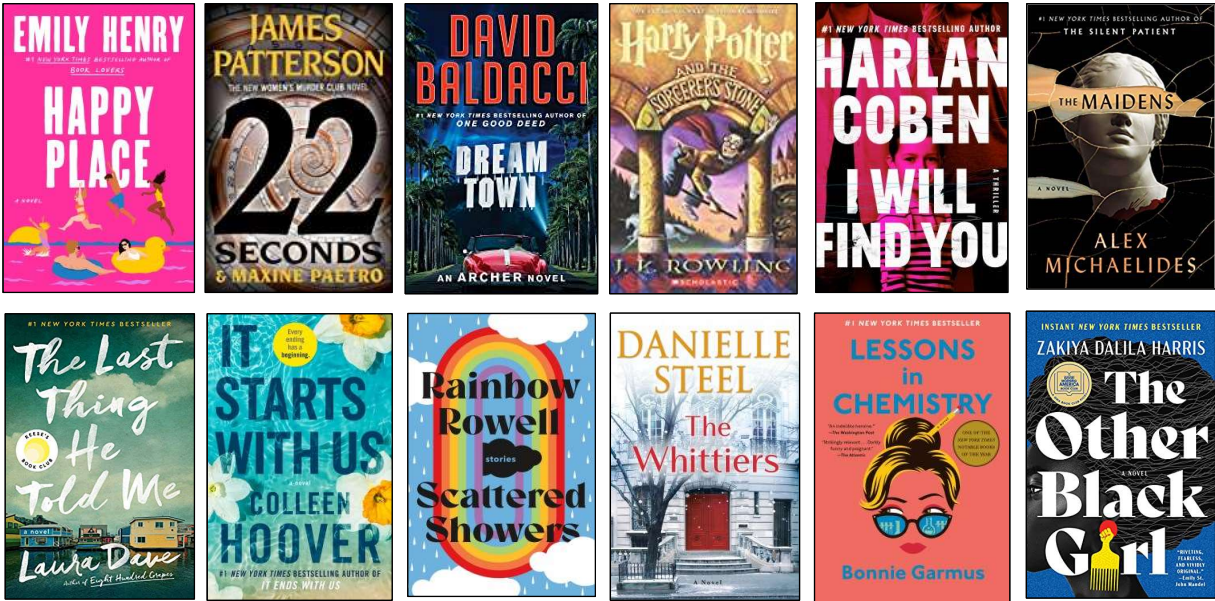
- Majority of titles are from Baker & Taylor
- Approximately 12,000 titles
- Multiple access models (1-year, 2-year, metered access, perpetual, open access)
- Most are **one simultaneous user**
- Available **ONLY** via SimplyE
 - We do not use the Axis360 or CloudLibrary apps
- Catalog records available for Apollo ILS
 - More ILSes in progress



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B&T, Bibliotheca Collections: Fiction



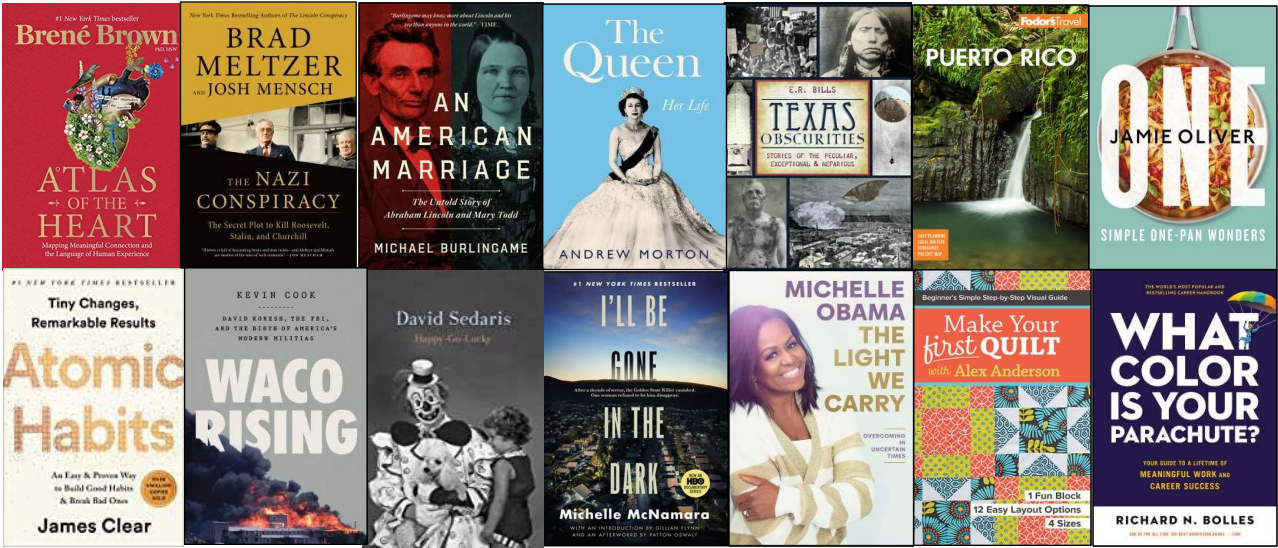
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B&T, Bibliotheca Collections: Fiction



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B&T, Bibliotheca Collections: Non-Fiction



B&T, Bibliotheca Collections: Audiobooks



Spanish Language Content



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Copies and Holds

Preferred: perpetual non-metered access with unlimited simultaneous use

But sometimes we can't avoid limits:

- Initial copies
 - Non-fiction: 1-5
 - Fiction: 2-10 copies
- Hold ratio
 - 6 holds per copy

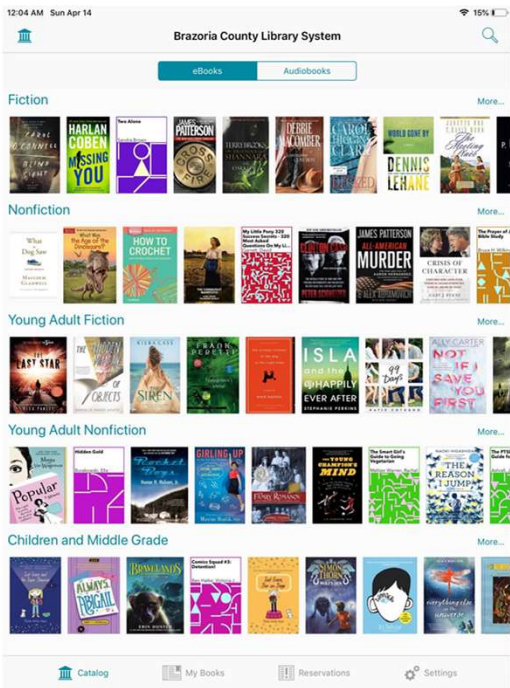


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Local Content Control

- Your library can curate lists and lanes
- Subjects and classifications can be changed on a title-by-title basis
- Titles can be hidden for your library only



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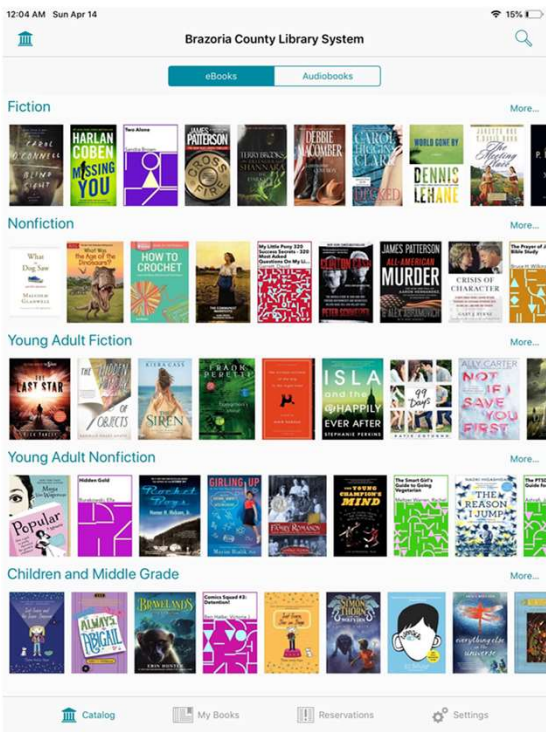
SimplyE is an open source ebook & audiobook platform developed by libraries for libraries. It simplifies your patrons' users experience finding, borrowing and reading your library.



SimplyE Replaces This . . .



With This . . .



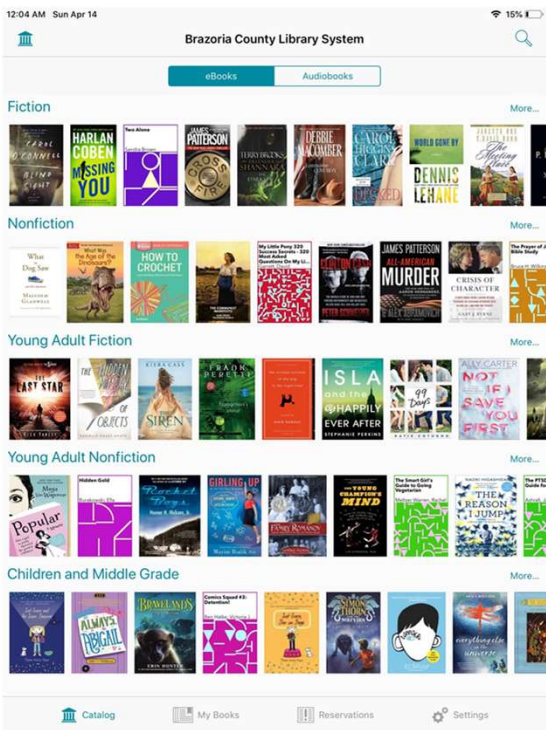
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Current Content Providers



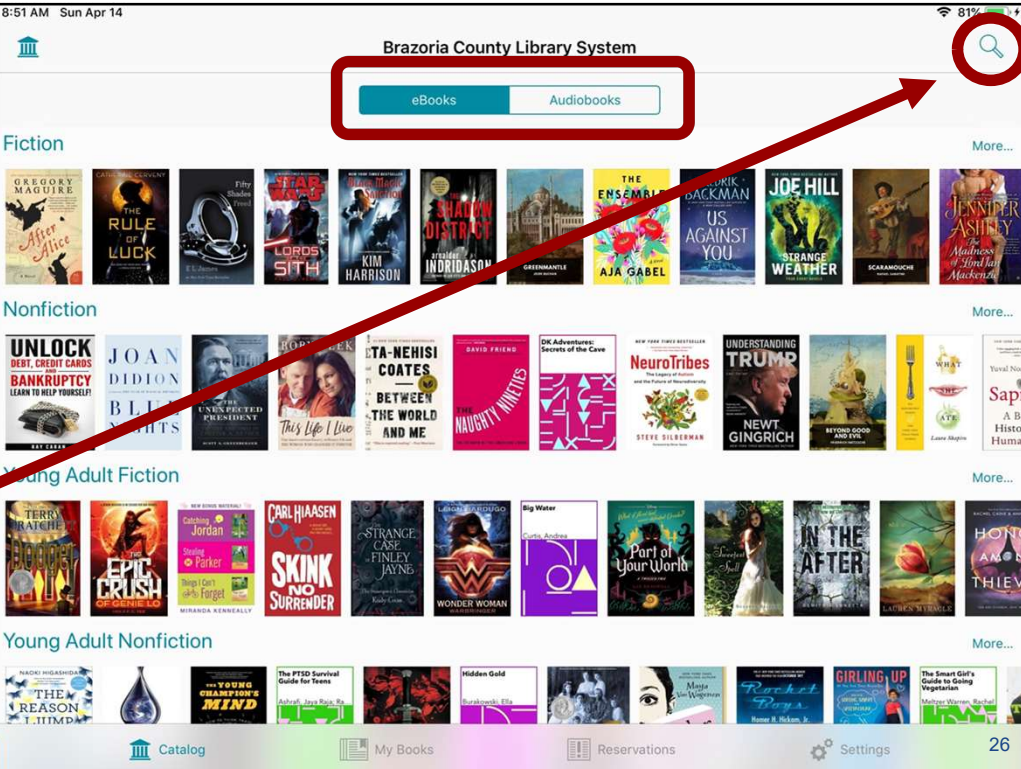
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SimplyE Demo

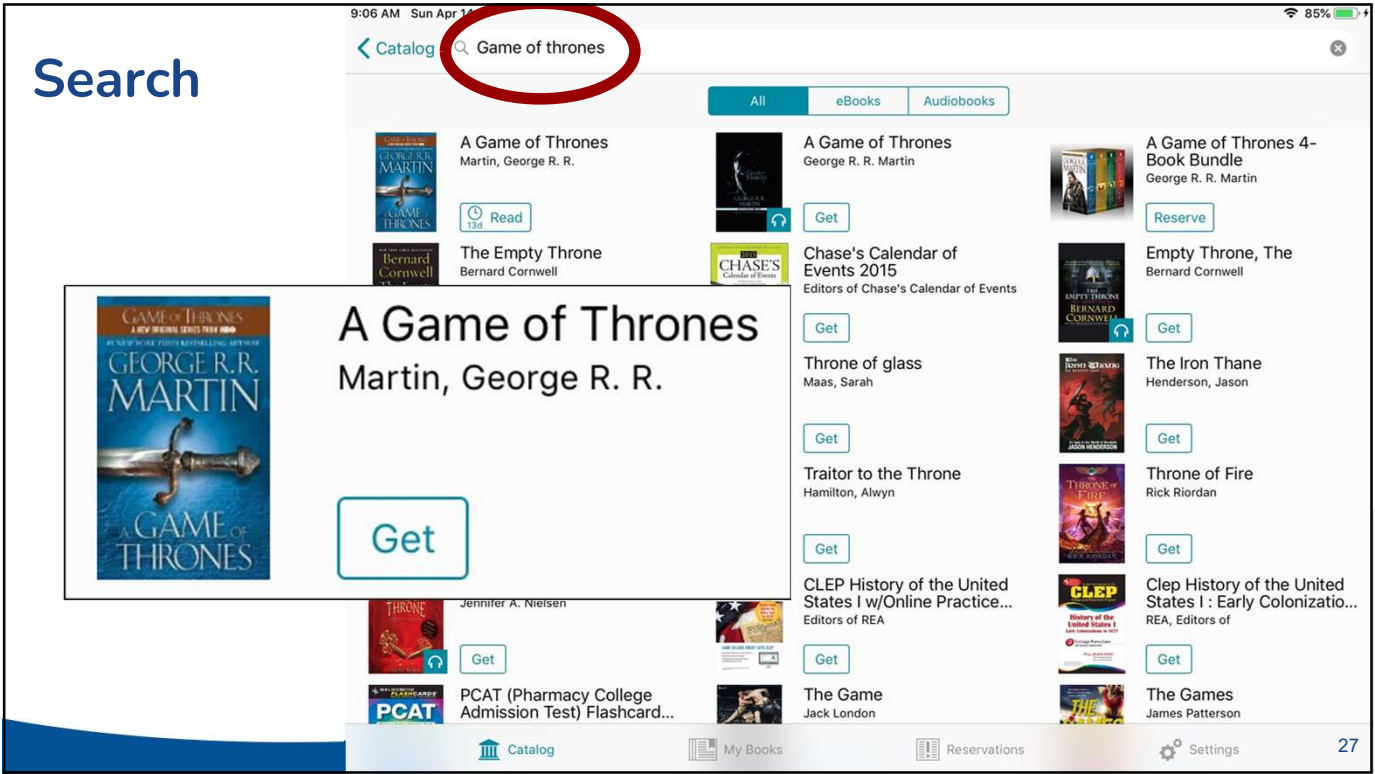


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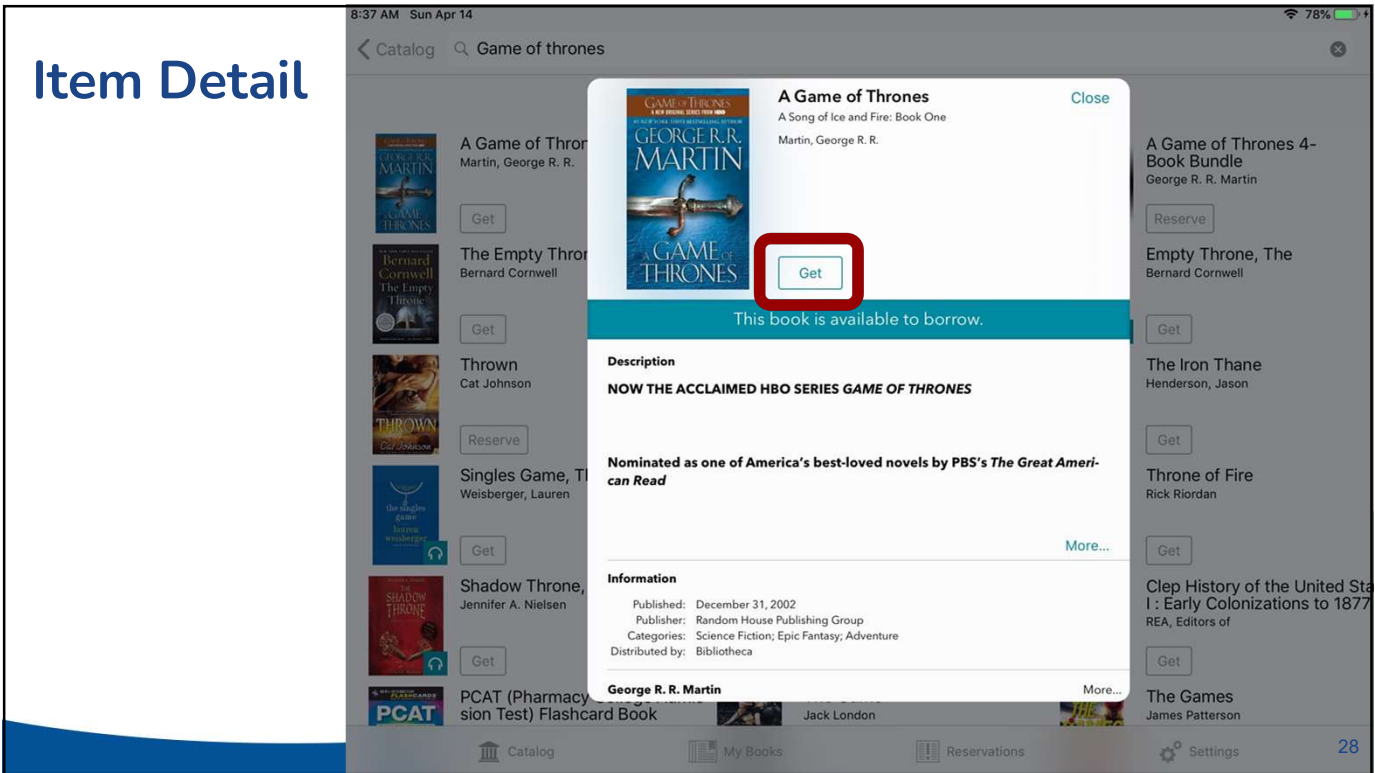
Search



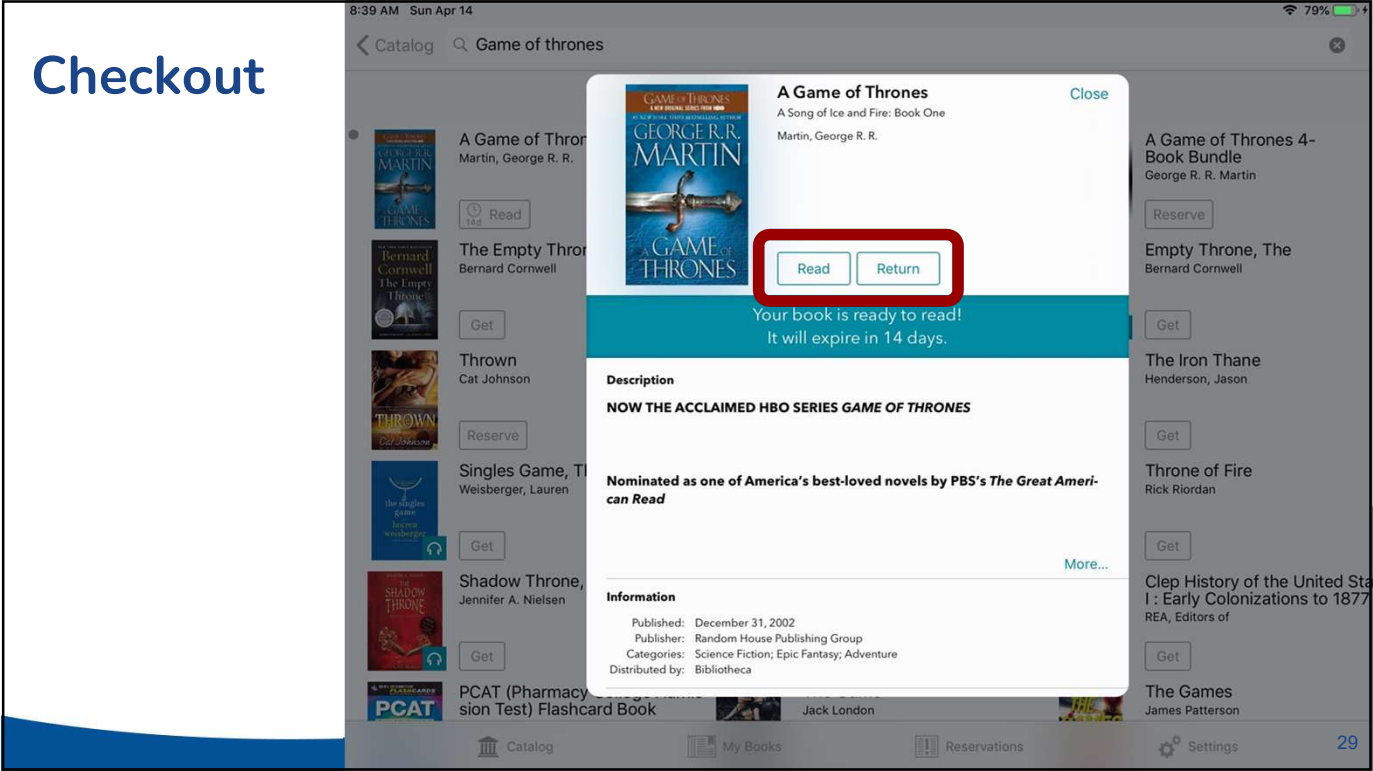
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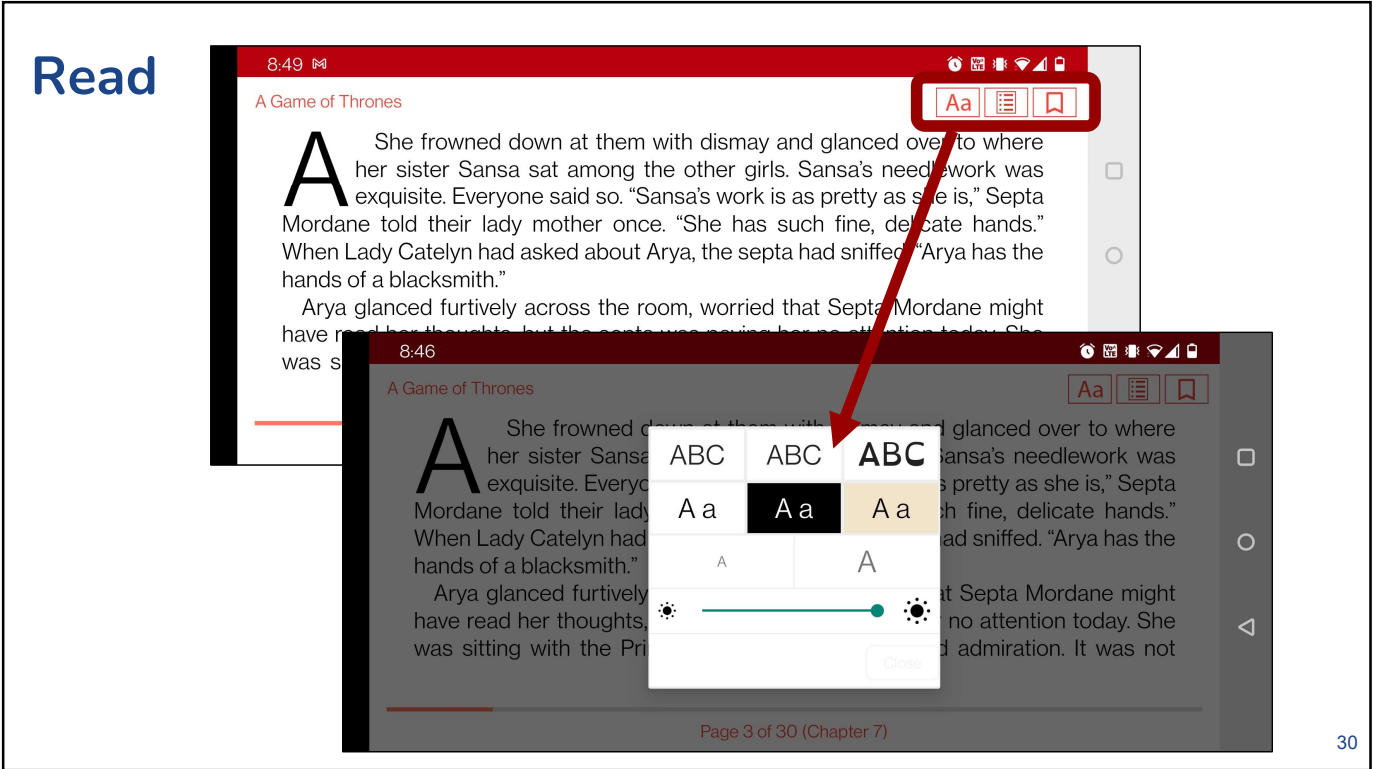
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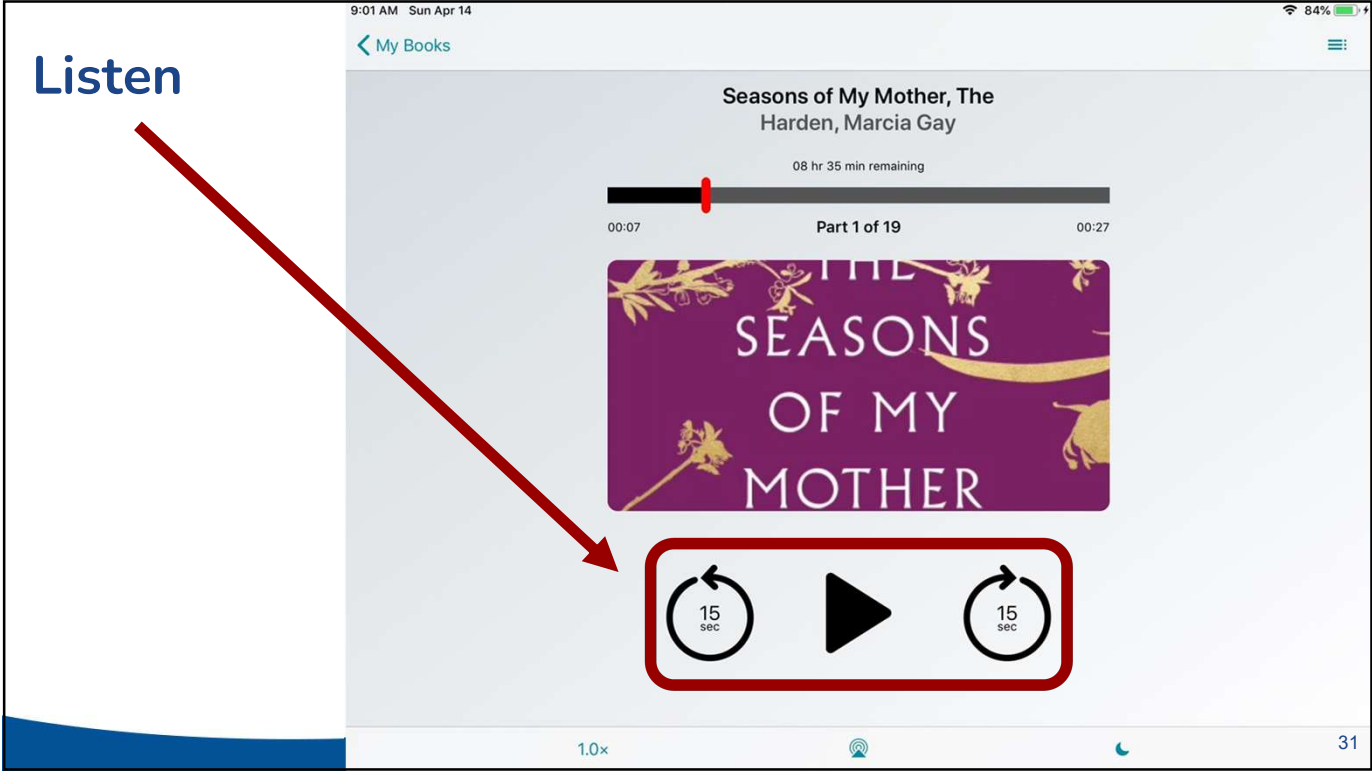
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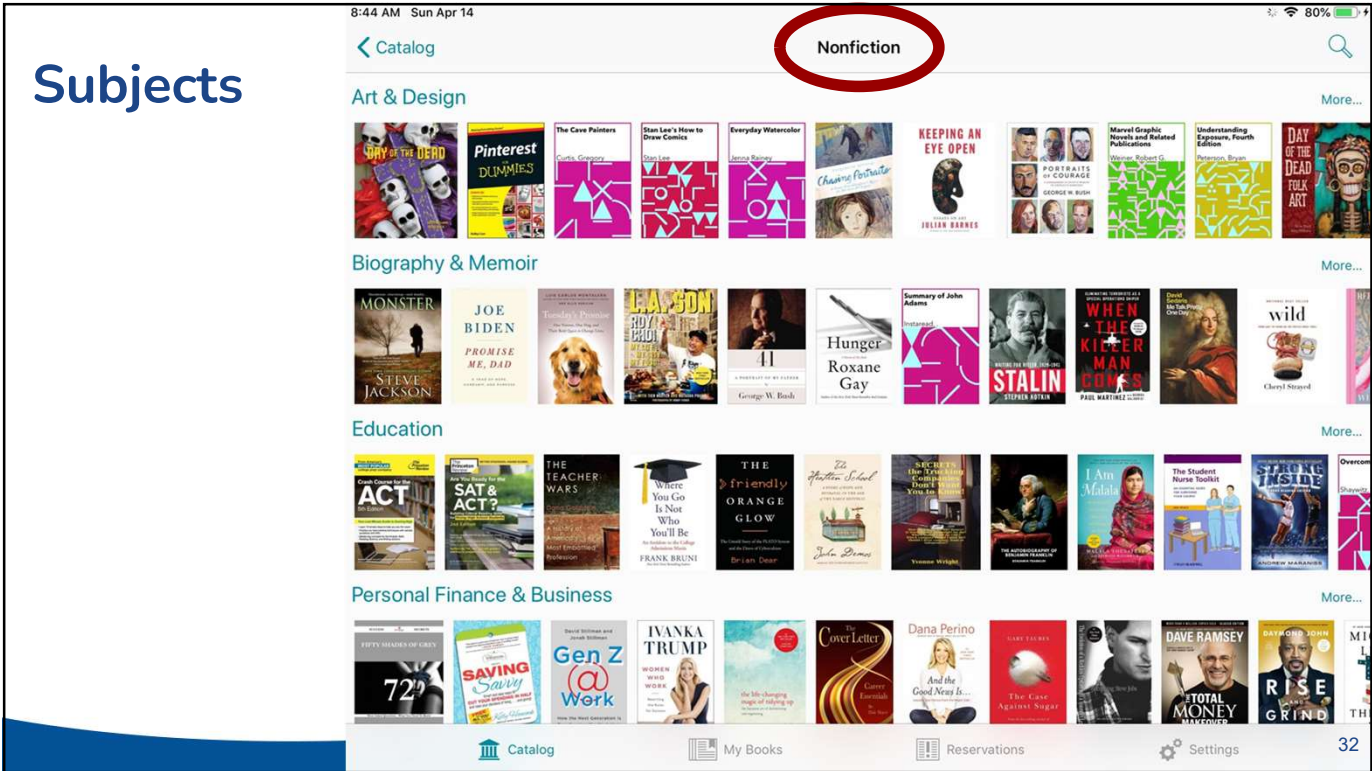
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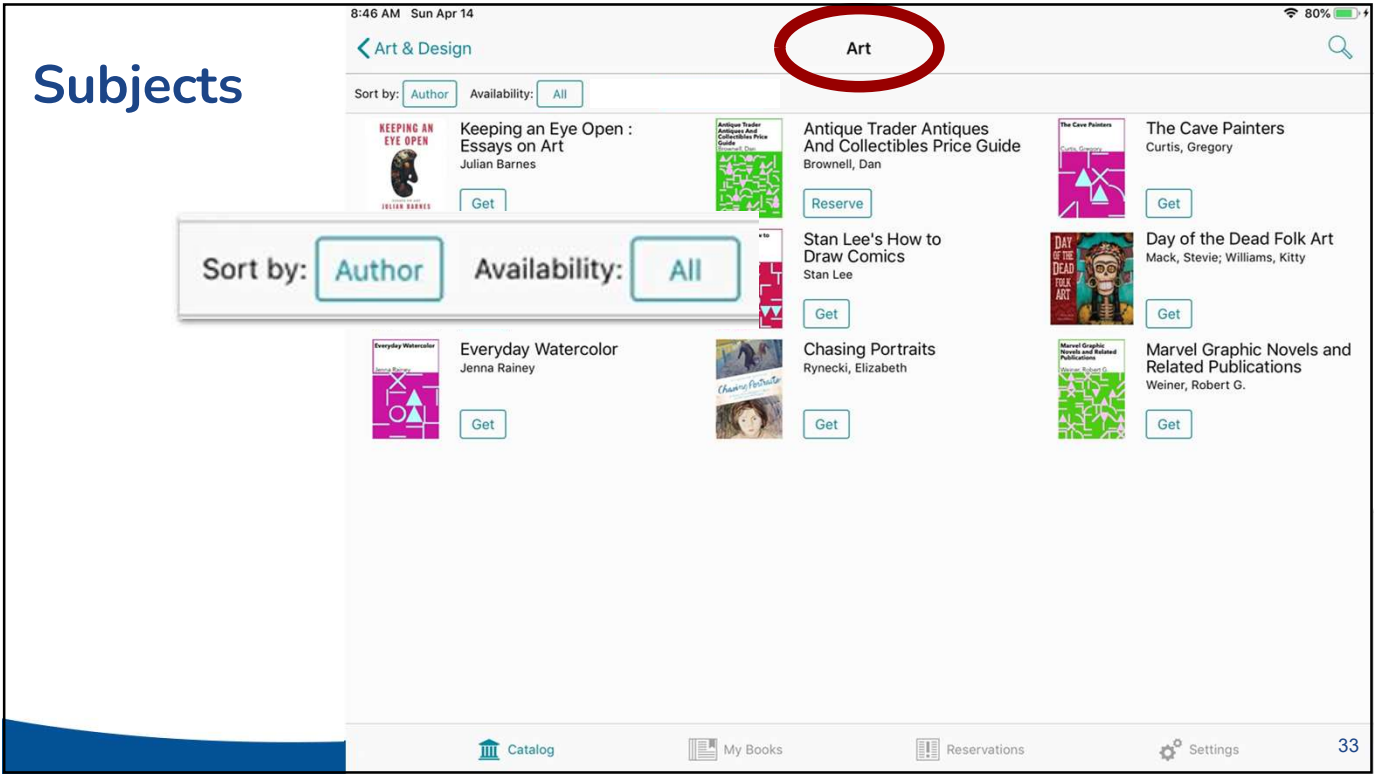
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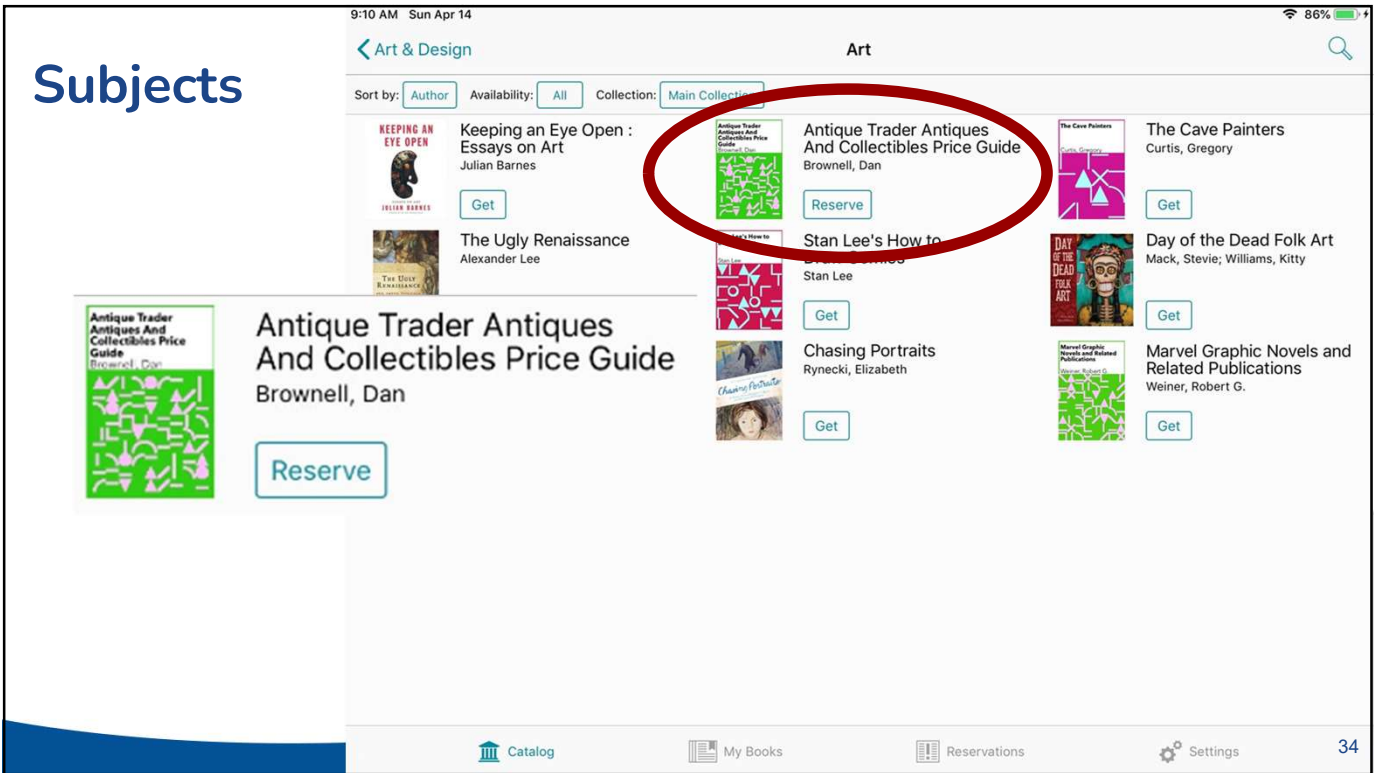
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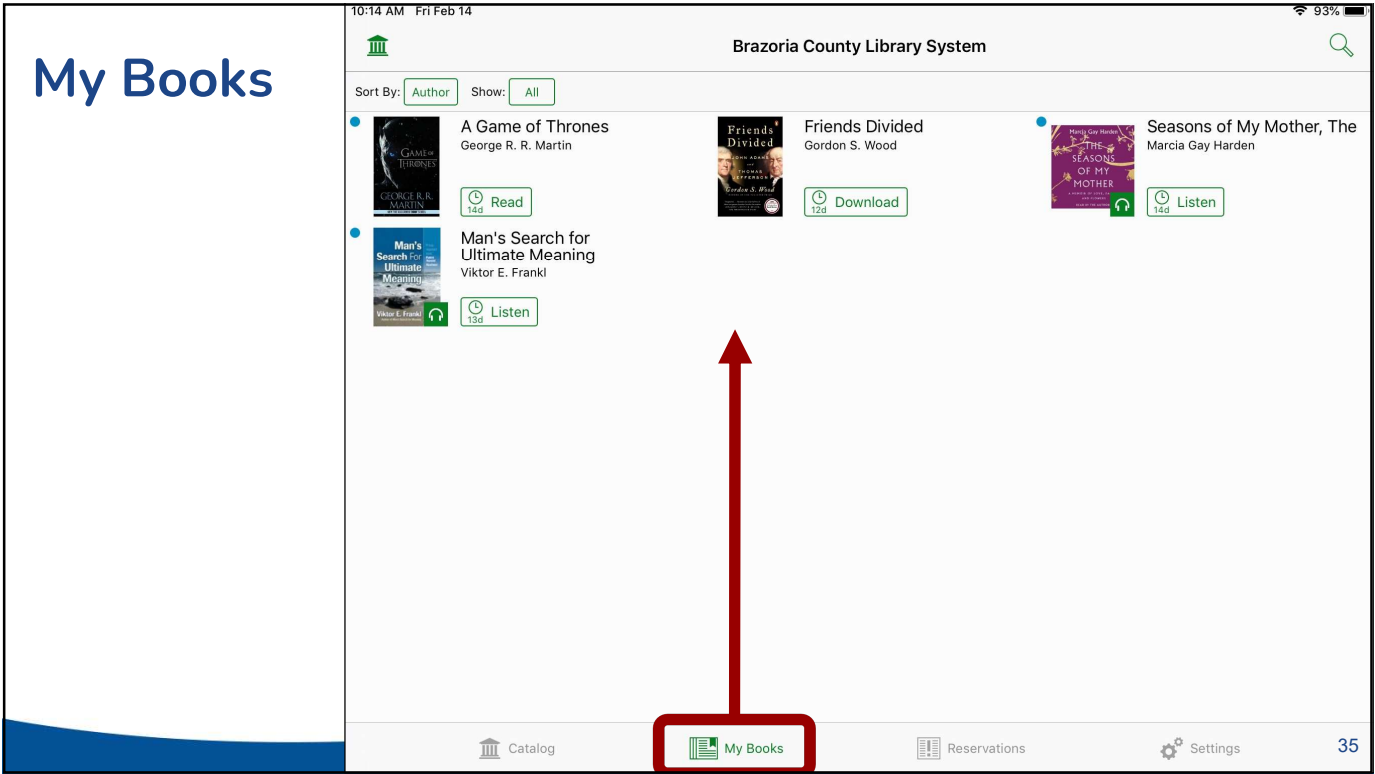
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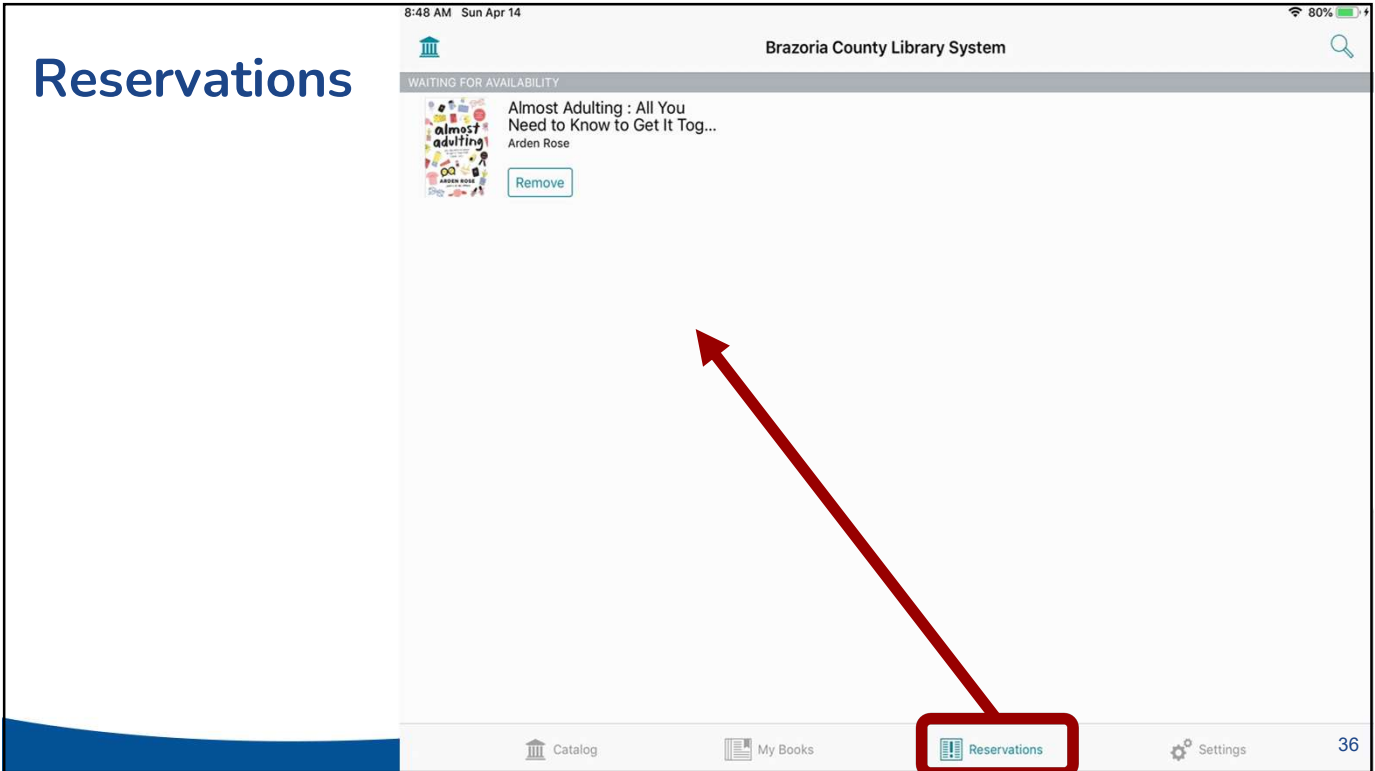
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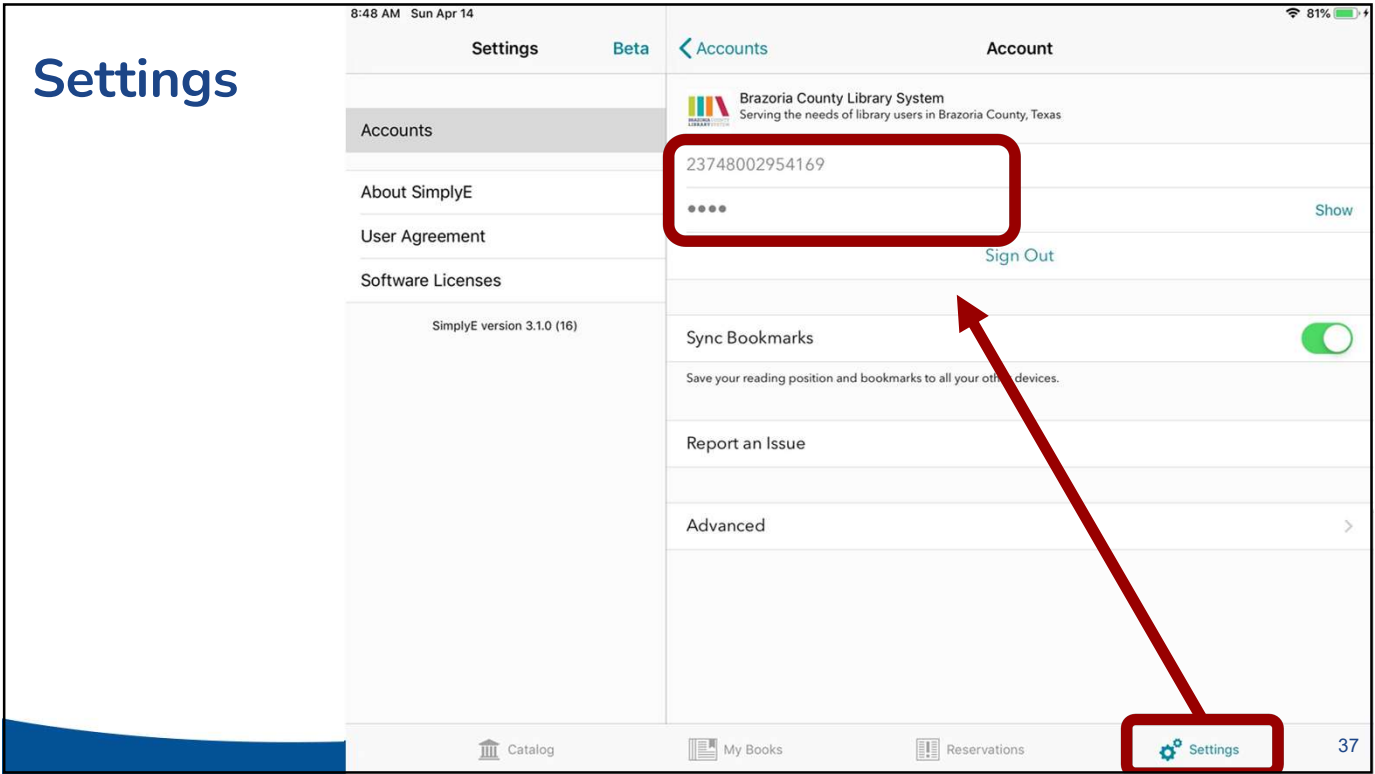
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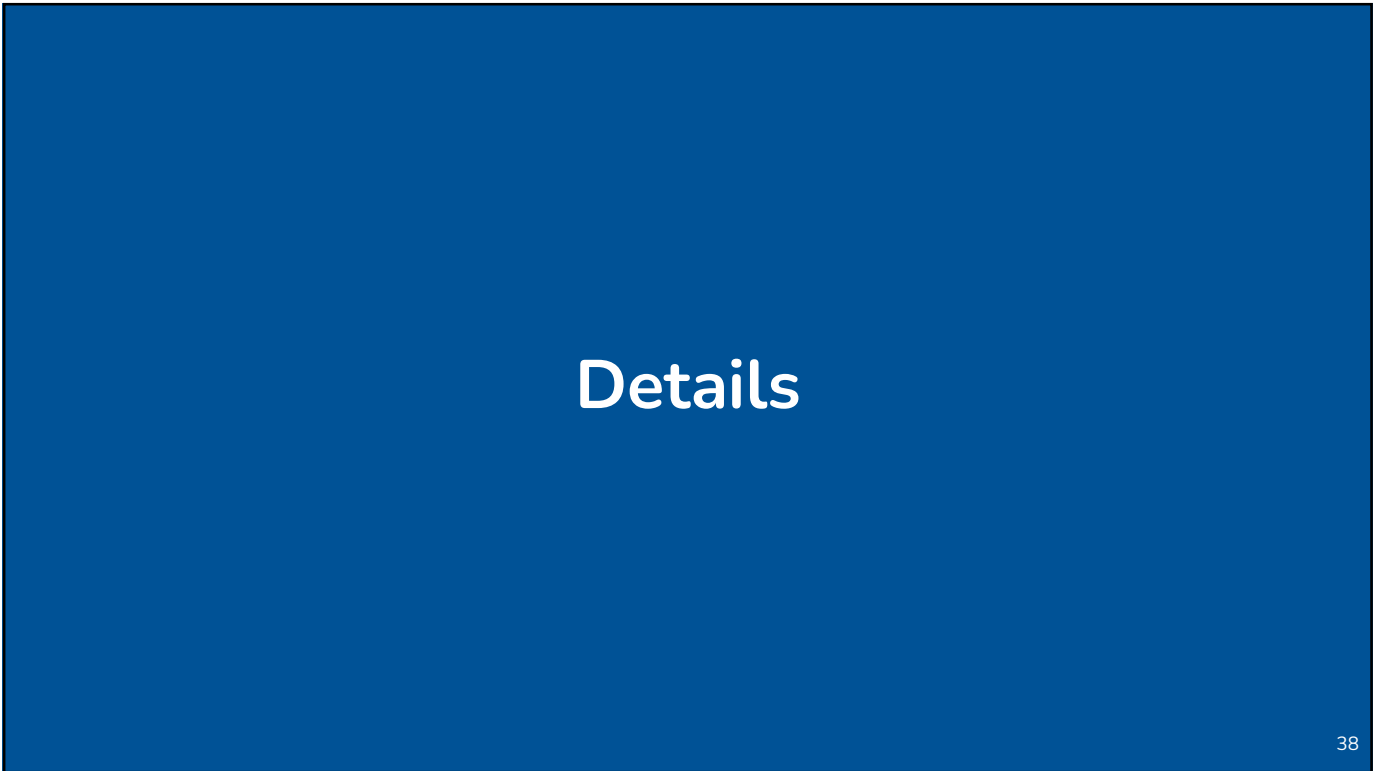
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Putting It Together

What TSLAC does

- Develops and maintains collection
- Financial support for program
- Sets program policies, structure

What Amigos does

- Provides hosting for SimplyE app
- Implementation for each library that joins
- Tech support for issues you cannot solve locally

What your library does

- Promote the program to your patrons!
- Basic tech support for your patrons
- Local customizations of SimplyE (if you choose)



How to Sign Up

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>

CONTACT US | VISIT US | ABOUT US | DONATE

SEARCH SITE | TRAIL | LIBRARY CATALOG | FIND A LIBRARY

Search the TSLAC Site

Archives & Reference

Services for Libraries

Talking Book Program

Records Management

Home >

E-Read Texas

Home | **Sign-Up Forms** | Webinars | E-Read Texas Collection | Title Lists | Promotional Materials

E-Read Texas brings electronic books and audiobooks to Texans served by small community libraries in all parts of the state. E-Read Texas provides over 17,000 downloadable e-books and audiobooks and a mobile e-reader application that make it possible for all Texans served by public libraries to access e-books. The E-Read Texas collection primarily includes adult fiction and popular non-fiction and is most appropriate for an adult audience.

Eligibility Criteria

Texas public libraries serving a population of no more than 100,000 users are eligible to join E-Read Texas. As of October 2021, public libraries serving a population of more than 100,000 users, but with electronic collection expenditures of less than \$100,000 per year are also eligible to join.

Annual submission of the [Texas Public Libraries Annual Report](#) is also required in order to participate in E-Read Texas.

SimplyE

TSLAC has partnered with [Amigos Library Services](#) to implement [SimplyE](#), an e-book app, for smaller public libraries. SimplyE was developed by the New York Public Library in partnership with other major libraries in the nation in response to challenges patrons face in accessing e-books. As of September 2022, Amigos has implemented SimplyE for over 185 public libraries from all parts of Texas ([map](#)).



How Do We Start?

Email:

TechnologySolutions@amigos.org

1. Agreement
2. Library Information Form
3. Children's lane form
4. 135x135px logo

This A
will pr
Amigo

Comple
question

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Library

This A
and Li
by eitl

Author
For Li

Title

Date _____



Children's Lane Configuration for New E-Read Texas Libraries

Return the form along with the Library Participation Agreement and Library Implementation Form to Amigos Library Services at technologysolutions@amigos.org. A copy of the form will be forwarded to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Choose one of the following options below:

- ☐ My library would like to enable the Children and Middle Grade lane, and I agree to the following statements:
- ☐ I understand that adult and young adult content may appear in the children's lane.
 - ☐ I understand that it is my library's responsibility to review the content in children's lane to ensure it is appropriate for children in my community.
 - ☐ I understand that as new titles are added to the E-Read Texas collections and to my library's locally purchased e-book collections, my library will need to review the children's lane for updates.
 - ☐ I understand that my library will be responsible for making changes to the audience levels in SimpleY, when necessary.
- ☐ My library does NOT want to enable the Children and Middle Grade lane.
- ☐ I understand that the collection will include all available titles, and that any titles for juvenile audience will be displayed in the fiction or non-fiction lanes.

Library Director signature: _____

Library Director printed name:

Name of library:

Date:

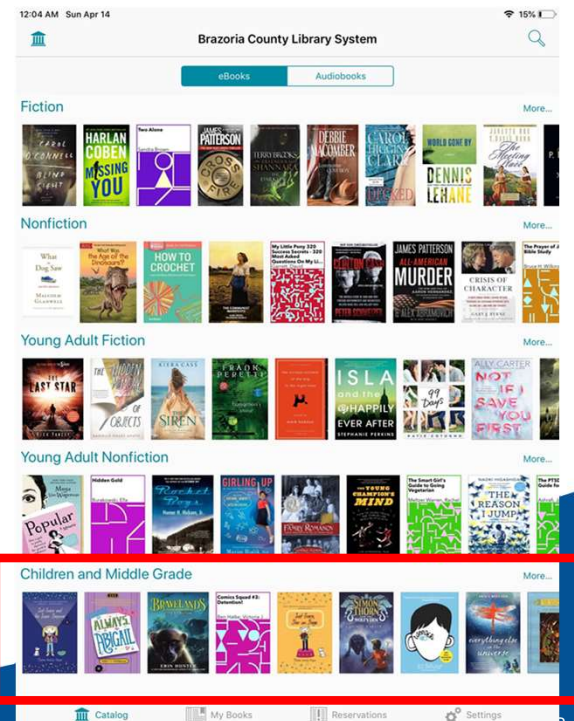
If you have any questions about this form or would like to discuss your options, please contact Karen McElfresh, Resource Sharing Projects Coordinator, at kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov.

Last Revision 1/19/2023

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Children's Lane Configuration

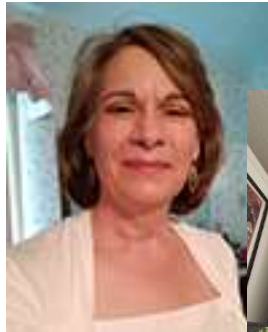
- Each library has the option to enable/disable the Children and Middle Grade Lane
- If you ENABLE the lane, you need to review it periodically
- If you DISABLE the lane, you will still get all available books, and children's material will appear in the Fiction/Non-Fiction lanes



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Amigos Staff

- **Christine Peterson**
 - Program Manager
 - Support
- **Chris Brown**
 - Configure
 - Test
 - Support
- **George Leithner**
 - Server Admin



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Ongoing

- **Library Primary Contact(s):**
 - Require at least one person per library
 - Update us with changes
 - EReadTexas-users email list
 - Monthly statistics
 - Amigos' primary contact for E-Read Texas
- **Patron questions go to library's email address**
- **TSLAC continues to develop collection**



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Promotional Materials from TSLAC

- **Printable bookmarks & flyers available by request**
 - Order form: <https://bit.ly/ERTSupplies>
- **Media kit – available on E-Read Texas website**
 - <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>
 - Includes draft press release, template letter to elected officials, social media posts, and links to instructional materials



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SimplyE Materials

[Customizable aids & videos](#)

Customizable Aids to Help Patrons

Created by Christine Peterson, last modified on Aug 27, 2020

Below are documents that can be used as is, modified and customized by library staff to help patrons understand and use the SimplyE apps. They are the result of a 2020 grant awarded to Amigos Library Services from the Institute for Museum & Library Services through the Texas State Library & Archives Commission. Thanks go to not only these three organizations, but Marilyn Jacobs and Joy Markel, who created these documents for us, and Neil Esposito, who create the videos.

Please Read This First: Letter to Librarians (pptx)

- Communications Toolkit for Librarians (pptx)
- Getting Started (pptx)
- Palm Card (pptx)
- Poster (pptx)
- Social and Web Graphics
- Webinar Script (pptx)
- Welcome Flyer (pptx)
- Using and Troubleshooting SimplyE (pptx)

Videos:

- 31-second SimplyE Introduction
- 101-second SimplyE Introduction

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Current & Future



Try It Yourself





SimplyE 4.5
The Library E-Reader
The New York Public Library
#109 in Books
★★★★★ 4.5 • 3.9K Ratings
Free

Screenshots iPhone iPad

Borrow eBooks

from your local library.

No library card?
Read classics from SimplyE Collection

Audiobooks
Check your library for availability

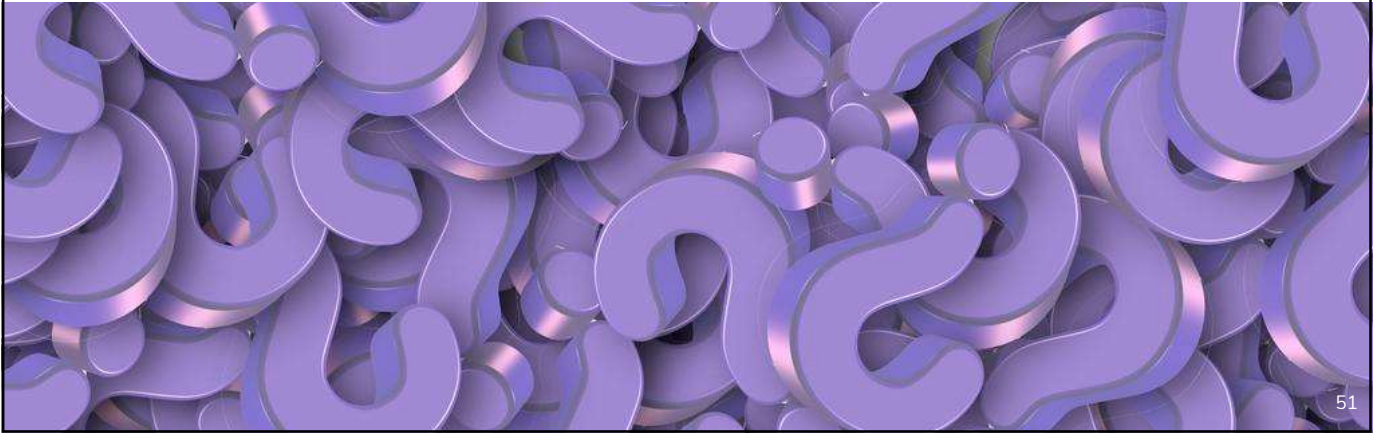


Next Steps

- Ready now? Fill out these forms and send to TechnologySolutions@amigos.org:
 - [Agreement](#)
 - [Library information form](#)
 - [Children's lane form](#)



Q&A



Texas State Library & Amigos

Texas State Library

- Funding
- E-Read Texas collection
- Contact: Karen McElfresh, kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov
- <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ldn/ebooks>

Amigos Library Services

- SimplyE app
- Technical assistance
- Contact: Christine Peterson, TechnologySolutions@amigos.org
- <https://www.amigos.org/simplye>



TEXAS STATE LIBRARY
AND
ARCHIVES COMMISSION



Thank You



Karen McElfresh
Texas State Library



Christine Peterson
Amigos Library Services

TechnologySolutions@amigos.org
kmcelfresh@tsl.texas.gov



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(Texas State Library and Archives Commission,
Grant # LS-252486-OLS-22). * (2023)*

